

**Adams and Jefferson County Hazardous Response Authority
FIELD OPERATING GUIDELINES**

DECON

F.O.G. #: 1600

DATE: October 29, 2018

CATEGORY: Decon

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I. Purpose:

- A. To provide a guideline for DECON.

II. Guideline:

- A. Decontamination (DECON) is the process of making personnel, equipment and supplies safe by reducing present levels of harmful substances. The DECON process is one of the most important steps in ensuring personal safety at a hazardous materials emergency. The extent of the success of DECON depends upon the ability of the DECON OFFICER to maintain control of personnel at the site.
 - 1. ESTABLISHING DECON: DECON must be established PRIOR to anyone entering the HOT zone for the incident.
 - 2. EMERGENCY / GROSS DECON: Emergency DECON or Gross DECON can be effectively established by using a hose line from a fire apparatus, and a selected area where contaminated responders or victims can be properly decontaminated.
 - a) It is understood that in many cases the decontamination of personnel in a Gross DECON area may increase contamination to the ground. If possible, alternative types of catch basins should be utilized. These can be as simple as inflatable swimming pools or plastic basins. However, emergency decon should not be delayed to protect the environment when the victim's life or health is in jeopardy.
 - 3. TECHNICAL Multi-Station DECON areas should be established in accordance with acceptable standards and when possible established utilizing the table included in **APPENDIX C**.
- B. Effectiveness of the decontamination process should be measured using monitoring equipment or chemical testing in order to meet the As Low As Reasonably Achievable (ALARA) guidelines.

III. References:

- A. **APPENDIX C**